

Message Text

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 180917

FOR AMBASSADOR SCALI

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 180917 ACTION ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC
DIPLOMATIC POSTS ALL EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS TOKYO USCINCSO
SEPT. 12:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 180917

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINT

SUBJECT: CHILEAN MILITARY OUSTS ALLENDE: SITUATION REPORT
2000 EDT

BEGIN FYI

SUMMARY: CONCERTED ACTION BY CHILEAN MILITARY LEADERS,
TRIGGERED BY NAVAL TAKEOVER OF VALPARAISO AT DAWN
SEPT 11, APPEARS TO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY OVERCOME LIMITED
RESISTANCE BY ELEMENTS LOYAL TO PRESIDENT ALLENDE'S LEFTIST
COALITION. ALLENDE PUBLICLY DEFIED MILITARY ULTIMATUM
FROM WITHIN PRESIDENTIAL PALACE, WHICH THEREUPON CAME UNDER
PROTRACTED BOMBARDMENT FROM TANKS AND PLANES. PALACE
REPORTEDLY SURRENDERED AT MID-AFTERNOON AND WITH IT, NEW
JUNTA CLAIMS, ALL ORGANIZED RESISTANCE COLLAPSED. COUCHING
STATEMENTS IN ANTI-MARXIST VEIN, JUNTA HAD DECLARED ITS
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ACTION WAS COMPELLED BY ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CHAOS.

ALLENDE'S PERSONAL SITUATION IS STILL UNCLEAR WITH SOME UNOFFICIAL REPORTS OF HIS DEATH. END SUMMARY

1. EARLY MORNING SEPTEMBER 11, NAVAL UNITS IN PRINCIPAL PORT OF VALPARAISO REBELLED AND TOOK OVER CITY. SOONAFETER A MILITARY JUNTA, COMPRISING NAVY CHIEF JOSE MERINO, ARMY CHIEF AUGUSTO PINOCHET, AIR FORCE CHIEF GUSTAVO LEIGH, AND ACTING NATIONAL POLICE DIRECTOR CESAR MENDOZA, DEMANDED ALLENDE'S RESIGNATION. MILITARY UNITS PROMPTLY SEIZED MOST PRO-ALLENDE RADIO STATIONS AND SET UP A MILITARY NETWORK.

HEAVY FIRING AND EXPLOSIONS ENSUED IN THE HEART OF SANTIAGO AS WELL AS BUZZING BY AIR FORCE PLANES. PRO ALLENDE CHILEAN LABOR CONFEDERATION (CUT) CALLED ON WORKERS TO SEIZE FACTORIES BUT REFRAINED FROM APPEAL TO TAKE TO STREETS. ROOFTOP SNIPING, PRESUMABLY BY ALLENDE SUPPORTERS, CONTINUED SPORADICALLY FOR MUCH OF THE DAY. SINCE EARLY AFTERNOON, MILITARY RADIO NETWORK HAS CLAIMED THAT ENTIRE COUNTRY IS UNDER MILITARY CONTROL.

2. PRESIDENT ALLENDE DEFIED A MILITARY ULTIMATUM TO SURRENDER AND VOWED HE WOULD REMAIN IN PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. HE INSTRUCTED HIS SUPPORTERS TO "DEFEND" THEMSELVES BUT NOT TO TAKE UNNECESSARY RISKS. IN SAME PUBLIC STATEMENT, ALLENDE CHARGED THAT COUP MOVEMENT WAS INSPIRED BY "FOREIGN CAPITAL AND IMPERIALISM".

3. MILITARY JUNTA HAS CALLED ITS INTERVENTION NECESSARY TO LIBERATE COUNTRY FROM MARXISM. IT HAS POINTED TO COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC CRISIS, ALLENDE'S INABILITY TO KEEP ORDER AND GROWTH OF PARA-MILITARY GROUPS. MILITARY IS CONTINUING TO OFFER PUBLIC REASSURANCE TO WORKING CLASS THAT IT WILL NOT SUFFER ECONOMICALLY.

4. SHORTLY AFTER MID-DAY, CHILEAN MILITARY ANNOUNCED THAT TROOPS HAD SUCCEEDED IN FORCING THEIR WAY INTO PRESIDENTIAL PALACE WHICH HAD BEEN SOFTENEDUP BY A TANK BOMBARDMENT AND STRAFING BY AIRCRAFT. PRESIDENTIAL PALACE REPORTEDLY SURRENDERED AT MID-AFTERNOON, PUTTING END TO WHAT LITTLE ORGANIZED RESISTANCE THERE HAD BEEN. JUNTA HAS WARNED THAT ANY FURTHER RESISTANCE WILL BE CONFIDENTIAL

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CRUSHED. ABSOLUTE CURFEW HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED BEGINNING 1800 HOURS.

5. ARMED FORCES RADIO NETWORK HAS BROADCAST STATEMENT OF INTENTION TO RESTORE INSTITUTIONAL NORMALITY, TO HELP CHILE RECOVER FROM ECONOMIC CRISIS, VIOLENCE AND POSSIBILITY OF CIVIL WAR AND TO PROTECT WORKING CLASS' SOCIAL GAINS. ONE OF JUNTA'S EDICTS DEMANDS THAT LONG

LIST OF MIR AND POPULAR UNITY LEADERS, INCLUDING FORMER
CABINET MEMBERS AND PARTY OFFICIALS, TURN THEMSELVES IN
OR FACE UNSPECIFIED CONSEQUENCES.

6. JUNTA STATEMENT ANNOUNCING END OF RESISTANCE AT
PRESIDENTIAL PALACE DOES NOT MENTION PRESIDENT ALLENDE.
SOME WIRE SERVICES REPORT RUMOR HE IS IN ONE OR ANOTHER
LATIN AMERICAN EMBASSY, BUT THERE ARE ALSO UNCONFIRMED
STORIES CIRCULATING THAT PRESIDENT MAY BE DEAD.

7. THERE ARE NO REPORTS OF INJURY TO AMERICA CITIZENS.
END FYI. RUSH

UNQUOTE. RUSH

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